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# EASTERN

**F.O.  
371**

1947

PALESTINE

File No. 9594

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Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61963

**CLOSED  
UNTIL**

**61963**

**1978**

E

E 9594

1947

PALESTINE  
LEBANON

15 OCT

2

Registry Number

E9594/9594/88

TELEGRAM FROM

Mr. Evans, Beirut

No. 743

Dated 13.10.47

Received in Registry 15.10.47.

Ban on Lebanese newspapers entering Palestine  
Refers to Jerusalem telegram No.1906 to Colonial Office.

Fears that decision to prohibit import of Lebanese newspapers into Palestine will have adverse effect on situation. Suggests that before decision is taken attempts should be made to induce Lebanese Government to moderate their tone.

Repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, B.M.E.O. and Damascus.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

678

*[Signature]*  
17/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61963

(Action completed.)

*[Signature]*  
15/10/47

(Index)

*[Signature]*  
15/10/47

Next Paper.

E 9677

Wt. 24772/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61963

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2

E

E 9677

17 OCT

7

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9677/9594/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

48 Bowker

Dated

Paris

Received in Registry

2027

16 Oct

14

Ban on Arab Newspapers entering Palestine.  
Appropriate reason for proposed ban, but suggests that before final decision is taken consideration will be given to likely repercussions of such action in Egypt.

Last Paper.

9594

(Minutes.)

Now please see E 9678

J 17/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Mr. Mathieson, P.O.  
✓ 23 Oct.

8) Mrs. Bradbury  
H.E. Dept P.O.  
(Church House)  
✓ 24 Oct.

(Action completed.)

J L 24/10

(Index.)

J L 25/10

Next Paper.

9678

WL 2477/717 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

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Reference:- FO 371 / 61963



Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM CAIRO TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Bowker

No. 2027

16th October, 1947

D. 6.52 p.m. 16th October, 1947

R. 8.24 p.m. 16th October, 1947

Repeated to Jerusalem, Damascus and Beirut.

IMPORTANT

SECRET

E 9677

Jerusalem telegram No. [grp. undec. 1247] to Foreign Office: Ban of Arab newspapers.

I can well believe continued circulation in Palestine of periodicals named may aggravate existing tension and I fully appreciate the reasons why the High Commissioner wishes to ban them. But before a final decision is taken I hope that consideration will be given to likely repercussions of such action in Egypt.

2. Declaration of banning of so many Egyptian papers is certain to be hotly resented by the Egyptian press as a whole regardless of party in spite of the fact that dailies mentioned are all on the opposition side. We must expect it to be condemned as a violation of freedom of the press and as evidence that Palestinian Government is either betraying pro-Jewish sympathies or acting under Jewish pressure. Such a development would be particularly unfortunate at a moment when we are trying on your instructions to persuade the Egyptians of fairness of our intentions about Palestine.

3. The High Commissioner's telegram does not state probable duration of the ban or the nature of material to which exception has been taken. Effect would not be so bad if the ban was for say one week only and accompanied by a warning that if papers concerned continue to incite disorder they would receive more severe treatment. It would also help us to meet criticism here if we could state that subversive Jewish papers have also recently been banned. I should be grateful for information on this point from the High Commissioner.

Beirut please pass to Damascus as my telegram No. 139.

888

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FO

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[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Mr. Dundas.  
No. 447.

D. 6.22. p.m. 15th October  
1947.  
R. 7.40. p.m. 15th October  
1947.

Repeated to Jerusalem,  
Cairo,  
B.M.E.O.  
Beirut, Saving.

E 9678

17 OCT

SECRET

Jerusalem telegram to Secretary of State for the Colonies 1906.

Arguments contained in first paragraph of Beirut telegram No. 743 apply with equal force to Syrian press and public.

2. If it is nevertheless decided to impose a ban on any Syrian newspapers I venture to suggest that a token ban of up to three days would give us an opportunity of drawing attention to the dangers of publishing material which may inflame public opinion in Palestine. In the last two or three days in fact there has been improvement in the tone of some Damascus newspapers.

3. Names contained in third paragraph (b) of Jerusalem telegram under reference include two Alef Ba and Al Ayyam whose attitude towards Britain is considerably more moderate than other Syrian papers such as Friday's Manar and Barada whom we consider most inflammatory.

.....



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371 / 61963

4

1947

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E 9679

PALESTINE

17 OCT

Registry Number

E 9679/9594/51

FROM

W.A.C. Mathieson

No.

Colonial

Dated

Office

Received in Registry

75978/47

16 Oct  
17 -

Ban on Arab Newspapers entering Palestine  
Re: Palestine (1946) (E 9594/9594/51) being  
proposal by Palestine Govt to prohibit  
importation of a number of Arab newspapers  
published in the Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.  
Copy of FO. has any objection to such a  
step being taken.

Last Paper

9678

(Minutes.)

Next Minute see E 9678

9677 and 9594

27/10

References

E 9678/9594/11

Cairo, Beirut and Damascus all deprecate the ban on certain Arab publications which the High Commissioner has proposed. H.M. Chargés d'Affaires at Cairo and Damascus have suggested that a ban might be acceptable if it were limited to a short period and used as a warning and Mr. Bowker has added that it would help to meet criticism if subversive Jewish papers could also be banned.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Spt. W.A.C. Mathieson  
from W. Beith  
Oct 22

The Colonial Office are on our side in this matter and are very ready, I understand, to request the High Commissioner to desist altogether from his intention. They had wanted a written reply from us last night, but, as it was impossible to arrange this, Mr. Mathieson, Colonial Office, is sending an interim telegram to the High Commissioner asking him to hold his hand pending instructions.

In the circumstances I think we should ask the Colonial Office to come down against any ban whatsoever since the compromise suggestions made are likely to complicate the issue.

Draft letter submitted.

J. G. S. Beith

(J. G. S. Beith)  
18th October, 1947.

(Action completed)

[Signature]

(Index)

[Signature]

Next Paper

9955

38538

[Signature]  
20/10  
BABB LO. X. P.T.O.

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Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61963











Registry  
No.E 9679/9594/31

Top Secret.  
Secret.  
Confidential.  
Restricted.  
Open.

I.  
P.  
G.

*Draft*

Mr. Matheson,  
Colonial Office.

from  
Mr. Beith

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

133 3148 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

*Ref  
V. 20/1*

*22h-  
16*

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

22 October, 1947.

IMMEDIATE

*Dear Matheson,*

Thank you for your letter of 16th October about the proposal of the Palestine Government to authorise <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ censor to prohibit the importation of a number of Arab newspapers published in the Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

The Jerusalem telegram does not give a clear indication of how harmful ~~are~~ the effects <sup>and</sup> in Palestine of the circulation of these newspapers. You will, however, now have seen the observations of our representatives in Cairo, Beirut and Damascus on this proposal (telegrams Nos. 2027 from Cairo, 743 from Beirut and 447 from Damascus) who are agreed that the repercussions which would be likely to result in neighbouring Arab countries from such a ban would be very unfortunate.

We hope, therefore, that you will feel able to instruct the Palestine Government not to pursue this proposal, unless they <sup>can show</sup> consider that the circulation of these newspapers in Palestine is ~~likely to have~~ <sup>likely to have</sup> really serious consequences, which ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> outweigh the considerations advanced by Cairo, Beirut and Damascus. And in that case, we would fully endorse the suggestion from Cairo that the ban should be made impartial by excluding at the same time

a/

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371 / 61963

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E

E 9955

24 OCT

22

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E 9955/9594/1

TELEGRAM FROM

Lieut. Campbell

No.

6110

Dated

Received in Registry

2058

24 Oct

24 -

Membership of Arab Newspaper

grateful for response & proposed that Embassy Publicity Section should want news concerned through press syndicate, but will first need more details of offending material.

ADDRESSED JERUSALEM 116

Last Paper.

9679

(Minutes.)

24/10

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Matheson  
Oct. 28

(Action completed.)

J. M. 1/10

(Index.)

15/10/48

Next Paper.

9990

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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61963

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM CAIRO TO JERUSALEM

Sir R. Campbell D.8.44 a.m. 24th October, 1947.  
No.116 R.10.46 a.m. 24th October, 1947.  
24th October, 1947.  
Repeated to Foreign Office No.2058  
Beirut

IMPORTANT  
CONFIDENTIAL

E 9955

Censorship of Arab papers.

I am grateful for your response. It is proposed that Embassy Publicity Section should warn papers concerned through the press Syndicate but we shall first need more details of offending material. Please telegraph them urgently with any suggestions for form of warning. It will probably have best chance of success in form of message from the Palestine Government.

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

B B B B

1947  
OCT 24 1947  
RECEIVED  
MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT

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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61963

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E

E 9990

1947

PALESTINE

27 OCT

24

Registry Number

E 9990/9594/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

M. Evans Beirut 777 25 Oct 17

Censorship of Arab Papers. Refer Palestine tel 1957 (E 9679/9594/31) have already spoken unacceptably to relations P.M. regarding sensational and inflammatory material which has appeared in Lebanese press and laws revealed that they would only do harm to all concerned. If agreed sending to Fed already urged moderation, P.T.O. office has taken similar action previously with journalists.

Last Paper.

9955

References.

In P.D. 2572 24/10

Please see the attached copy of Colonial Office telegram No. 2572 to Palestine, which was sent as a result of our letter to the Colonial Office on E 9679/9594/31. This telegram assumes that the High Commissioner no longer considers it necessary to impose the censorship suggested and asks him to report if he should have to reconsider doing so. The position therefore appears to be held.

Meanwhile H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Beirut asks whether he is authorised to approach the Lebanese Government officially with a request that they moderate the tone of their press. I suggest that we can certainly authorise Mr. Evans to take this action, and submit a draft to him & to Cairo & Damascus.

J.G.S. Beith (J.G.S. Beith) 30th October, 1947.

(How disposed of.)

M. Atkinson P.D. Oct 28 Beirut 677 Paris 2031 599 Nov-1. P.T.O.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Handwritten initials and dates

Handwritten initials and dates

Next Paper.

E 10208

In P.D. Palestine tel 2093 7/11

WL 24772/117 17895 10/38 F.O.P.

Handwritten initials and P.T.O.

Vertical stamp: COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON. Reference: FO 371 / 61963



E 9990

[This telegram is of particular ~~secret~~ <sup>27 OCT</sup> and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

Cypher/OTF CABINET DISTRIBUTION. 26

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

Mr. Evans  
No. 777

D. 12.45 a.m. 25th October 1947  
R. 2.44 p.m. 25th October 1947.

25th October 1947.  
Repeated to Jerusalem,  
Cairo,  
B.M.E.O. Cairo,  
Damascus Saving.

SECRET.

Jerusalem telegram No. 1959.

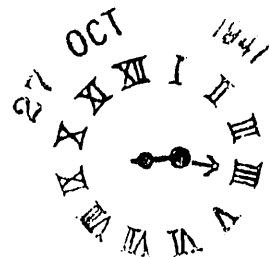
Censorship of Arab papers.

I have already spoken unofficially to Lebanese Prime Minister regarding sensational and inflammatory material which has appeared in Lebanese press and have pointed out that this could only do harm to all concerned. He agreed and said that he had already urged the press to moderate its tone and would continue to do so. Information Officer has taken similar action privately with journalists. I believe that this has had some effect and that on the whole the Lebanese press is now less sensational. The Lebanese Prime Minister himself issued a statement (published in Egyptian newspaper Ahram on October 19th) which included the following passage "Arab States naturally have no fear for Arabs of Palestine as long as the British are there because they, the British, are responsible for security and peace there. The decision of the Arab League to rescue Arabs in Palestine means that Arab armies will occupy positions at present held by British once they have evacuated in order to prevent Jews from taking over".

2. If I am authorised to approach Lebanese Government officially I think they will make further efforts to moderate the tone of the press.

Cairo please pass to B.M.E.O. as my telegram No. 207.

V V V



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Reference:-

FO 371 / 61963





NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. E 9990/544/31

~~Top Secret.~~  
~~Secret.~~  
Confidential.  
~~Restricted.~~  
~~Open.~~

Draft.

Telegram. BEIRUT No. 677

(Date) 11/07/47

Repeat to :-  
CAIRO 2031.  
DAMASCUS 559.  
JERUSALEM

JB out. 30  
Cypher. 21/x  
Distribution :-  
Cabinet.

RECEIVED IN C.B.  
SENT TO DEPT.  
Copies to :-

43-5-4

OUTFILE

F.O., A  
2/10 1947.  
Despatched 13:45 A.M.  
28

Your telegram No. 777 [October 25th:  
~~Arab press~~  
 ~~censorship of Arab papers in Palestine.~~

I agree that you should take the matter up officially with the Lebanese Government.

BABIS  
31.X

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Reference:-  
**FO**  
371 / 61963



Registry  
No.  
E.9990/594/31.

Draft.

~~DAMASCUS~~  
~~CAIRO~~

560  
2032

Telegram.

No.

Dated

Nov 1st

~~By Air~~ Code

Cabinet Distribution

Repeated to:

Beirut ✓ / 678  
Jerusalem ✓

RECEIVED IN C.B.

7 NOV 1947

SENT TO DEPT.

OUT FILE

Despatched 10 5 11 M. <sup>2</sup>/<sub>11</sub>

30th October, 1947. 30

My telegram No [A] 677 to Beirut. [of  
Nov 1 ; Censorship of Arab papers  
in Palestine.]

You are authorised to act likewise, if  
you think it would have a  
useful effect.

BARIS

31. X

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

42A

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371 / 61963

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

9990 9594 71

Cypher (O.T.P.)

1947

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 7th November, 1947.

R. 7th " " 13.35 hrs.

No. 2093 Confidential.

Addressed to Charge d'Affaires  
Beirut, No. 1524.

Repeated to S. of S.  
" Cairo, No. 136.  
" Damascus, No. 1526

Foreign Office telegram to you  
No. 677.

Arab Press.

Al Shark of 6th November contains more material whose circulation in Palestine is most undesirable, e.g. page one, column four, article headed "War in Palestine is unavoidable and the Arabs and Jews prepare themselves for a battle for life in a decisive slaughter" and that on page five, columns one and two headed "Collecting arms and volunteers; Haj Amin El Husseini and Qawagji speak on imminent Arab revolt".

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office - Communications Dept.

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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61963



7

1947

E

PALESTINE

10208

1 NOV

34

Registry Number } E10208/9194/11  
 FROM }  
 No. } toward.  
 Dated }  
 Received in Registry } 1 Nov,

Continuation of last newspaper  
 Re: Police tel 1906 (E9194/9194/11)  
 document with of article referred  
 to, which sets the form of actions which British  
 Government fears lest of suggested warning  
 in article.  
 Police tel 2025 2/11

Last Paper.

9990

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

g.n.p.  
 8, 80.  
 Nov. 13

(Action completed.)

L.L.M. 5/11

(Index.)

*[Handwritten signature]*

Next Paper.

10391

(Minutes.)

*[Handwritten signature]*  
 GABE  
 (GABE)  
 4/11

Note para. 4. The High  
 Commissioner should be held by  
 Co. tel. no. 2572 in E9990 to  
 refer back to London before  
 imposing a ban but he  
 seems to have got the bit  
 between his teeth. This tel.  
 is only addressed to Cairo.  
 We must await developments.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
 M.V. 3  
 (BEITH)

g.n.p. Cairo tel 158 Saving addressed Jerusalem  
 Copy Co. 121. 8/11  
 JO. NOV. 12

32003 F.O.P

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INWARD TELEGRAM

E  
Enter form

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 30th October, 1947.

R. 30th " " 21.20 hrs.

IMPORTANT

No. 2023 Confidential.

10208

Addressed to Cairo, No. 134.  
Repeated to S. of S. NOV  
" Beirut, No. 1498.  
" Damascus, No. 1499.

Your telegram No. 116.

Censorship of Arab Newspapers.

Journals concerned are those named in my telegram addressed to S. of S. No. 1906, repeated to you No. 124, Damascus No. 1388, Beirut, No. 1389. Offending material occurs both in editorials and in what purport to be items of news. It takes the form of extreme anti-British comment, wildly exaggerated reports of troop movements on borders of Palestine, predictions that a Holy War will break out in Palestine at an early date, rumours of mass enlistments in forces formed for defence of Arab Palestine, etc. A typical example is the article in Akhbar el Yom of 11th October, page 9, column 3, headed "War of Annihilation", in which Azzam Pasha is reported as saying "it will be a war of annihilation, a terrible carnage", and "I believe the number of volunteers from outside Palestine will exceed the population of Palestine herself", and "this battle will be distinguished by three important features:-

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8

E

E 10391

1947

PALESTINE

6 NOV

42

Registry Number } E10391/9594/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No. M. Dumas

Dated Damascus

Received in Registry } H 91

H, Nov

6 -

Last Paper.

10208

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. Warkentin 30.  
✓ Nov 7

(Action completed.)

E. M. 7/11

(Index.)

15/11/47

Next Paper.

10470

Consent of Arab Paper.  
After Damascus 1425, has now spoken  
to Syrian PM on same lines, the Arab  
point well and appeared to agree.

(Minutes.)

JB MV. 6

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Cypher/OTP.

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

43

Mr. Dundas.  
No. 491.

D. 12.50 p.m. 5th November 1947.

4th November 1947. R. 3.20 p.m. 5th November 1947.

Repeated to: Beirut,  
Jerusalem  
B.M.E.O. Cairo.

10591  
6 NOV

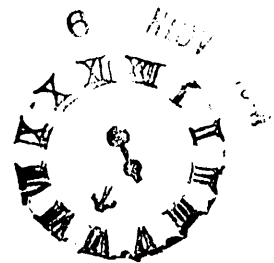
My telegram No.425[sic].

Censorship of Arab papers.

I have now spoken to Syrian Prime Minister  
on the same lines. He took the point well and  
appeared to agree..

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat.]

W:W:W:W:W



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Reference:-

FO

371 / 61963

E

10170

3 NOV

44

PALESTINE

Registry Number

E10M79/9594/31

TELEGRAM FROM

No.

M' Grant Beirut

Dated

Received in Registry

803  
7 Nov  
8 -

Membership of Arab Newspaper.  
Refer to of 677 (E9990/9594/21) also spoken  
to Lebanese PM on his visit to Jerusalem tel 2023.  
He agreed and said that he would make a  
further effort to moderate tone of Lebanese  
press. On regard Nidal, he said he would work  
the editorial staff.  
He spoken in similar terms to President who  
was receptive.

Last Paper.

10391

(Minutes.)

JB NW. 8

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8, Washington. C.O.  
Nov. 10

(Action completed.)

J.E.M. 10/11

(Index.)

R.M. 10/11

Next Paper.

10749

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E

10749

PALESTINE

17 NOV 46

Registry Number

E10749/9574/31

TELEGRAM FROM

M. L. L. L.

No.

Beruit

Dated

826

Received in Registry

15, Nov

17 -

*Sanctioning of Arab Press*

Refer Jerusalem tel 2127 (E9990/9574/31)

Al. Shukh issued a demerit on 14 Nov. Beirut editors have been warned both by Tel Aviv and by the Information Officer of Legation and that he has been issued a demerit in the general tone of press as a whole. Opponents of the press for inflammatory material published in the press will be in first instance only taken into account. A few days will be imposed.

Last Paper.

10470.

(Minutes.)

The H.C. will have to warn the Co. if he is going to impose this ban after all  
JBNV.18

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S. M. L. L. L. L.  
Nov. 18

(Action completed.)

J. E. M. 18/11

(Index.)

18/11

Next Paper.

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